



Oxford Read and Discover



Life in

Rainforests







# Life in Rainforests

Cheryl Palin

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# Introduction

A tropical rainforest is a forest of tall trees that's warm all year. It's called a rainforest because it usually rains every day. It can rain more than 250 centimeters in one year. Many amazing animals and plants live in rainforests.



tarantula



sloth



kapok tree



hummingbird

What do you know about tropical rainforests?  
How tall is a kapok tree?  
How long does a sloth sleep every day?  
How many eyes does a tarantula have?  
What do hummingbirds drink?



Now read and discover more about life in tropical rainforests!



# 1

# Tropical Rainforests

All the tropical rainforests are near the equator. Most of them are in the Tropics. The biggest tropical rainforest is the Amazon rainforest in South America. The second biggest is the Congo rainforest in Africa. South Asia also has lots of tropical rainforests. There are smaller rainforests in Central America, Madagascar, India, Australia, and on the islands near Australia.

## Tropical Rainforests on Earth

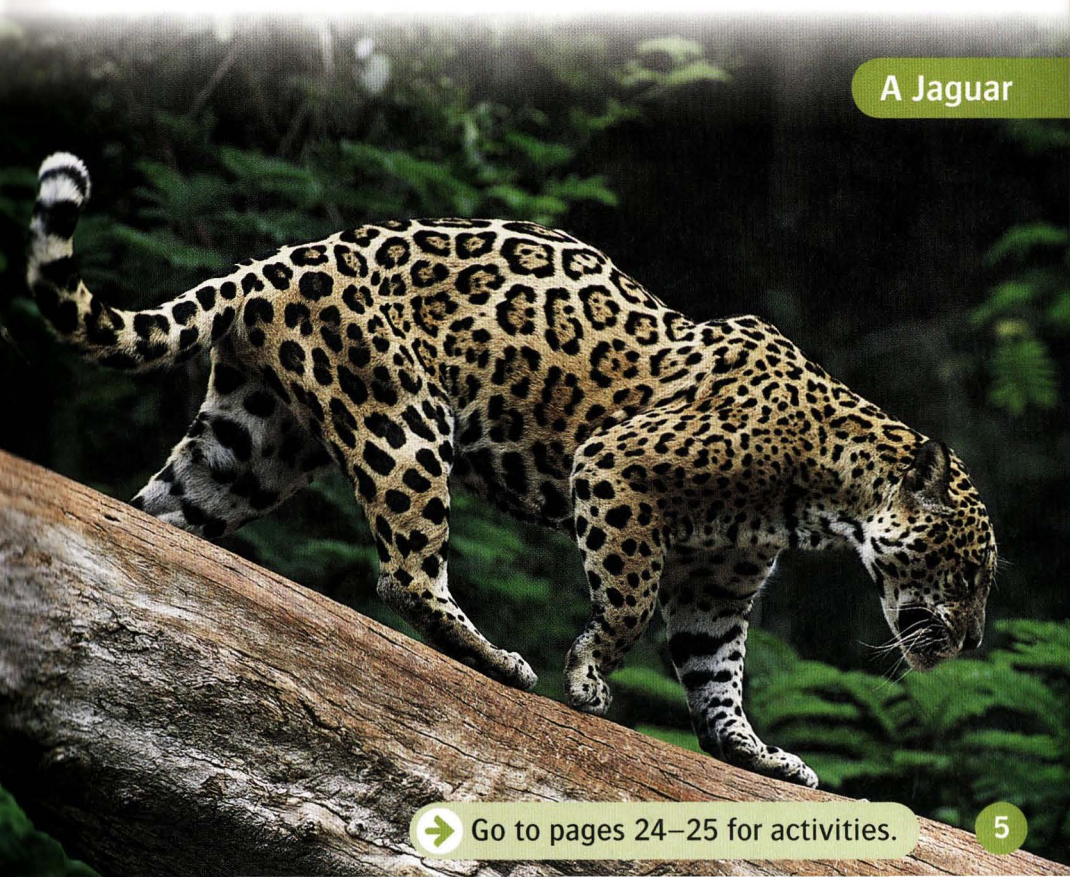




Tropical rainforests cover only about 6 percent (%) of Earth, but they have 50% of all the different types of animal and plant that we know. About 10 square kilometers of rainforest can have 750 types of tree, 1,500 types of other plant, 400 types of bird, and 150 types of butterfly.

Some very big animals live in tropical rainforests. Jaguars are the biggest cats in the Amazon rainforest.

A Jaguar

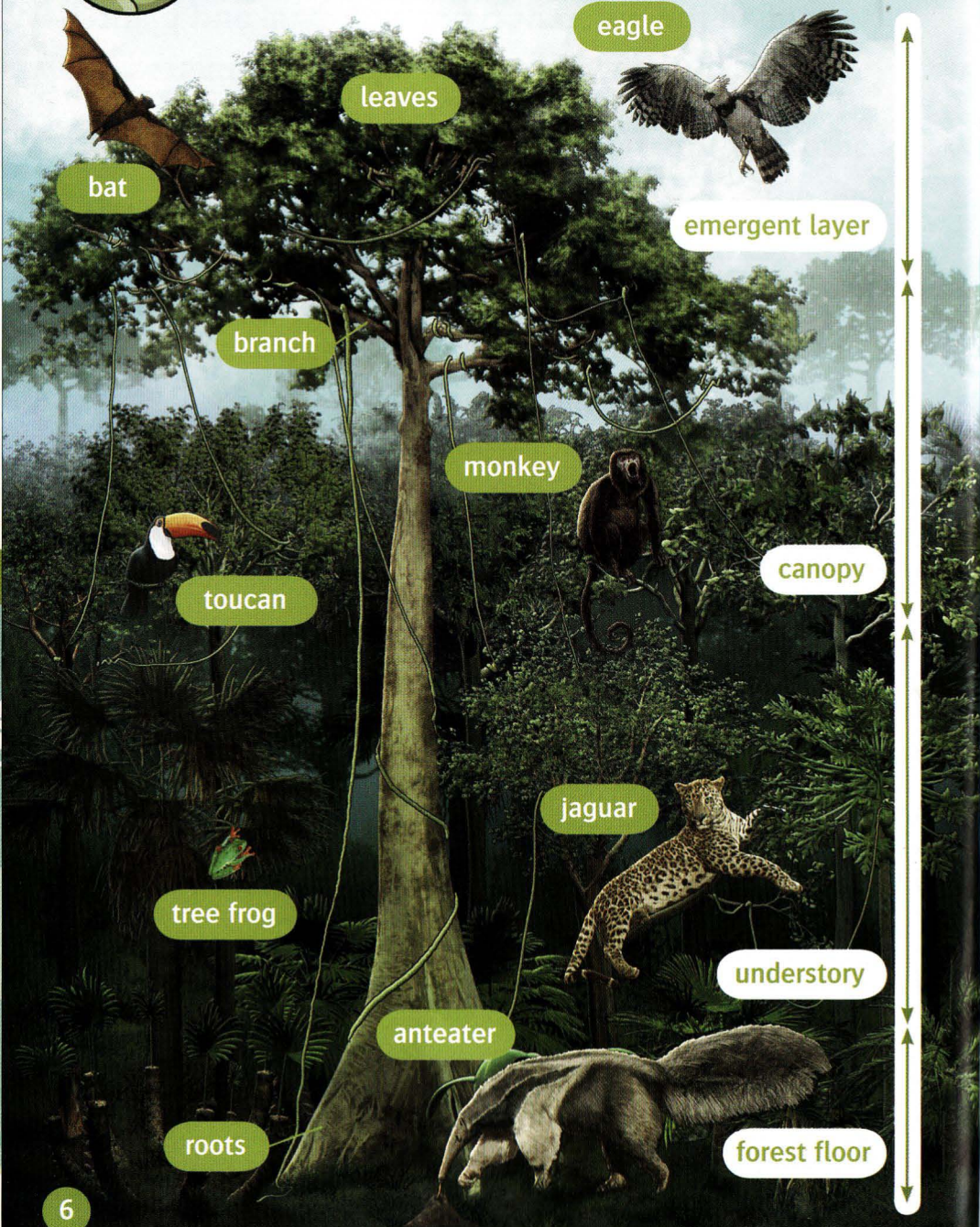


Go to pages 24–25 for activities.



# 2

## Rainforest Layers



eagle

leaves

bat

emergent layer

branch

monkey

canopy

toucan

jaguar

tree frog

understory

anteater

roots

forest floor



Tropical rainforests have layers.  
The top layer is the emergent layer.  
The tops of the tallest trees are in  
this layer. It's very windy! Eagles  
and bats live here.

The next layer is the canopy. The big  
branches and leaves of the tall trees  
are here. There are many types of  
animal in this layer, because there's  
light and lots of food. Monkeys and  
toucans live in the canopy.

The next layer is the understory.  
The tops of the small trees are in  
this layer. It's dark and hot. Jaguars  
and tree frogs live here.

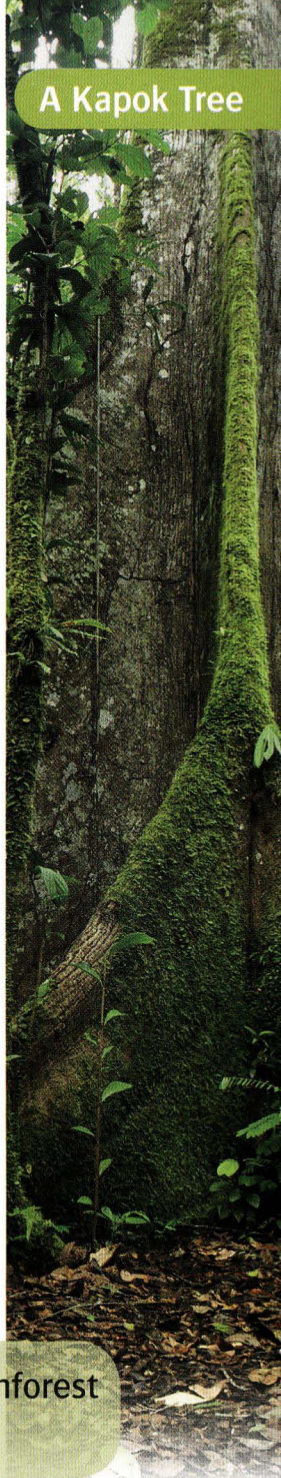
The bottom layer is the forest floor.  
The roots of the trees are in this  
layer. Many insects live on the forest  
floor. Some big animals like anteaters  
live here, too. They eat the insects.



The kapok tree is one of the tallest rainforest  
trees. It can grow up to 70 meters tall.



Go to pages 26–27 for activities.





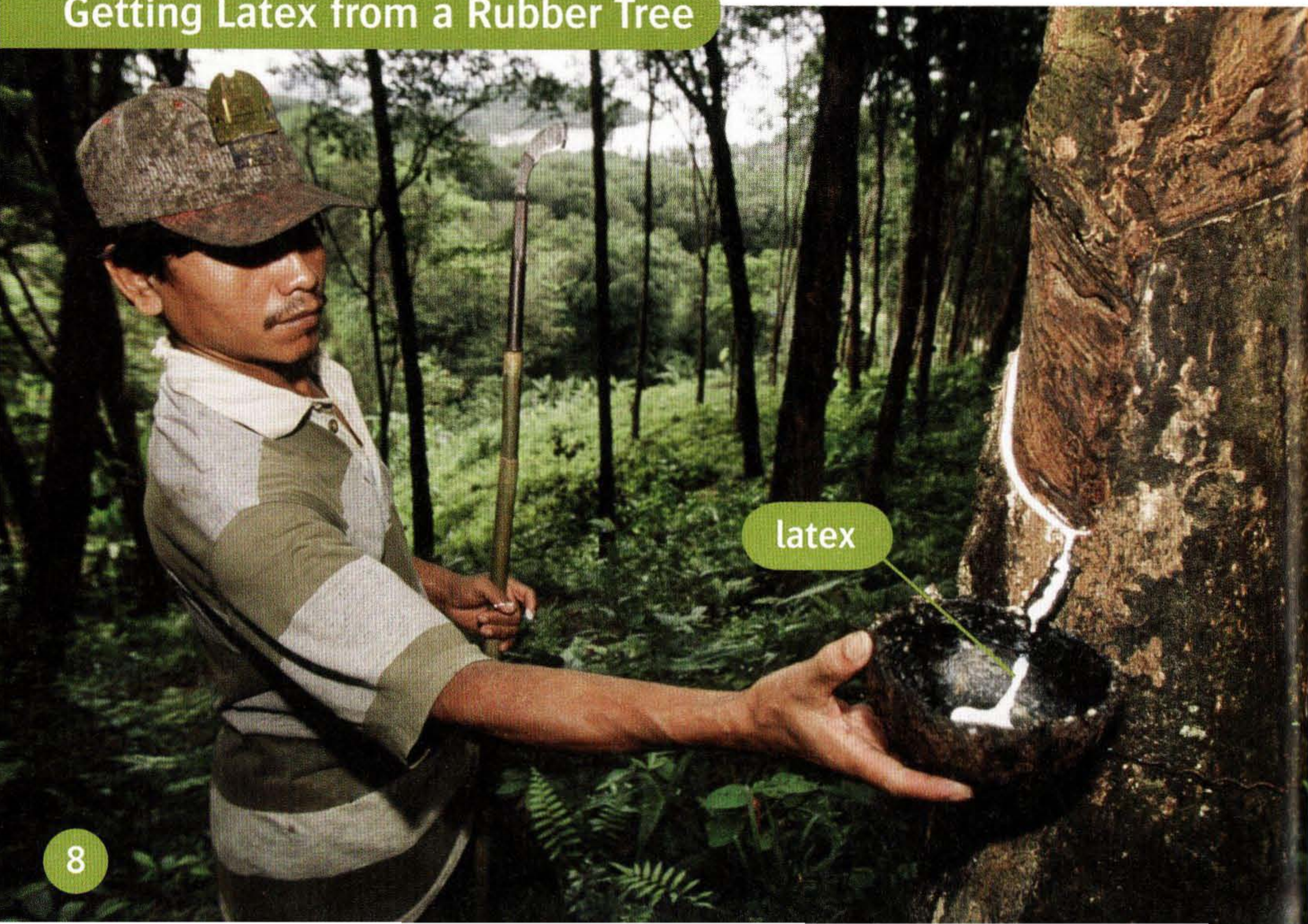
# 3

## Plants

Animals and people get lots of food from rainforest plants. Bananas, pineapples, and nuts all grow in the rainforest.

We can make things from rainforest plants, too. People make clothes and bags from pineapple leaves. We also use some plants to make medicines. We can use some rainforest trees, like the balsa tree, for wood. We can use the rubber tree for latex to make rubber.

### Getting Latex from a Rubber Tree







## Orang-Utans in a Nest

Many rainforest plants are homes for animals, like monkeys, birds, and insects. Some frogs sleep between the leaves of big plants. Some birds and other small animals live in tree holes. They make nests for their babies in the holes. Orang-utans sleep in nests in trees. They make the nests from leaves and branches.



Orang-utans use big leaves as umbrellas when it rains!

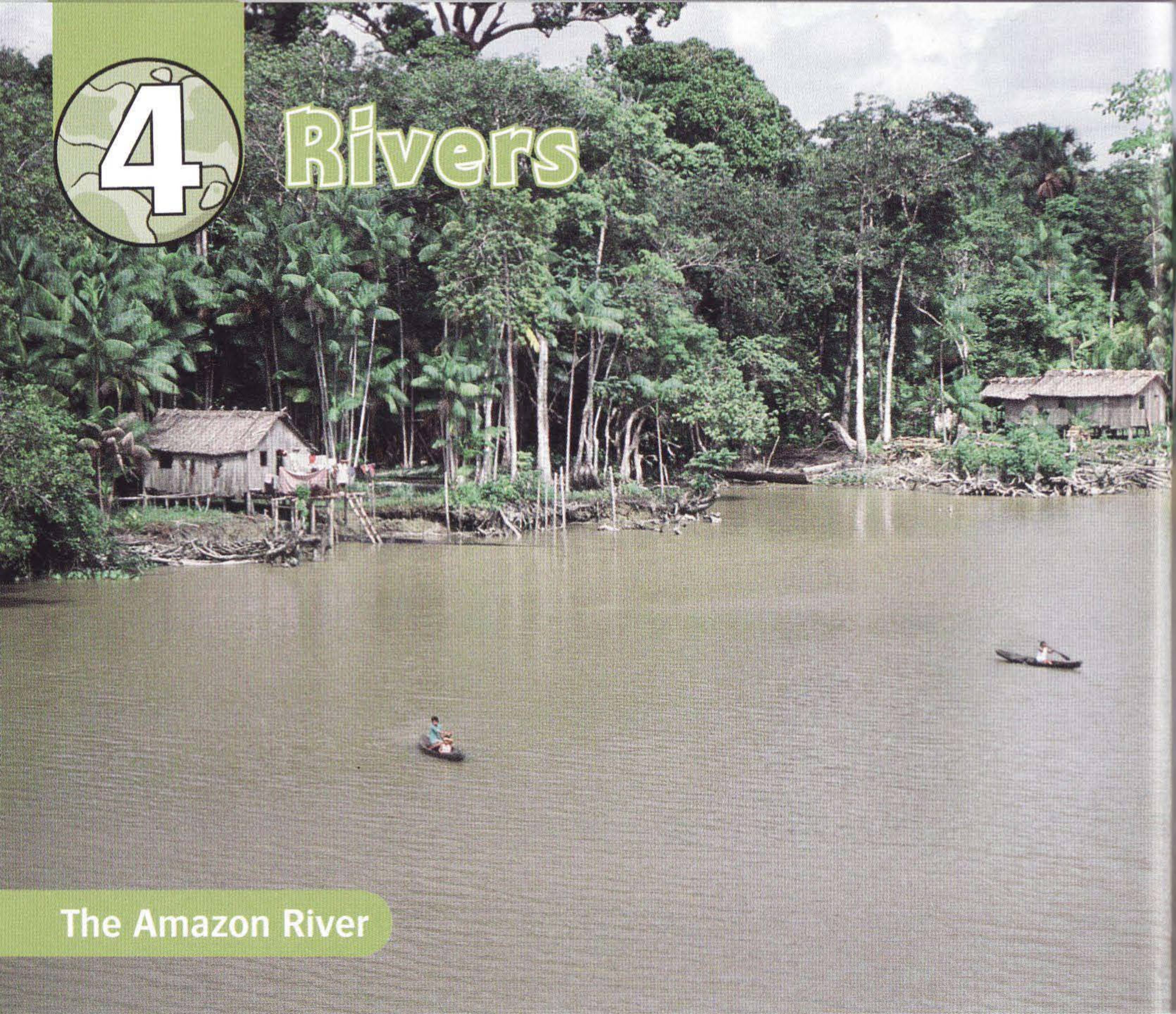


Go to pages 28–29 for activities.



# 4

## Rivers

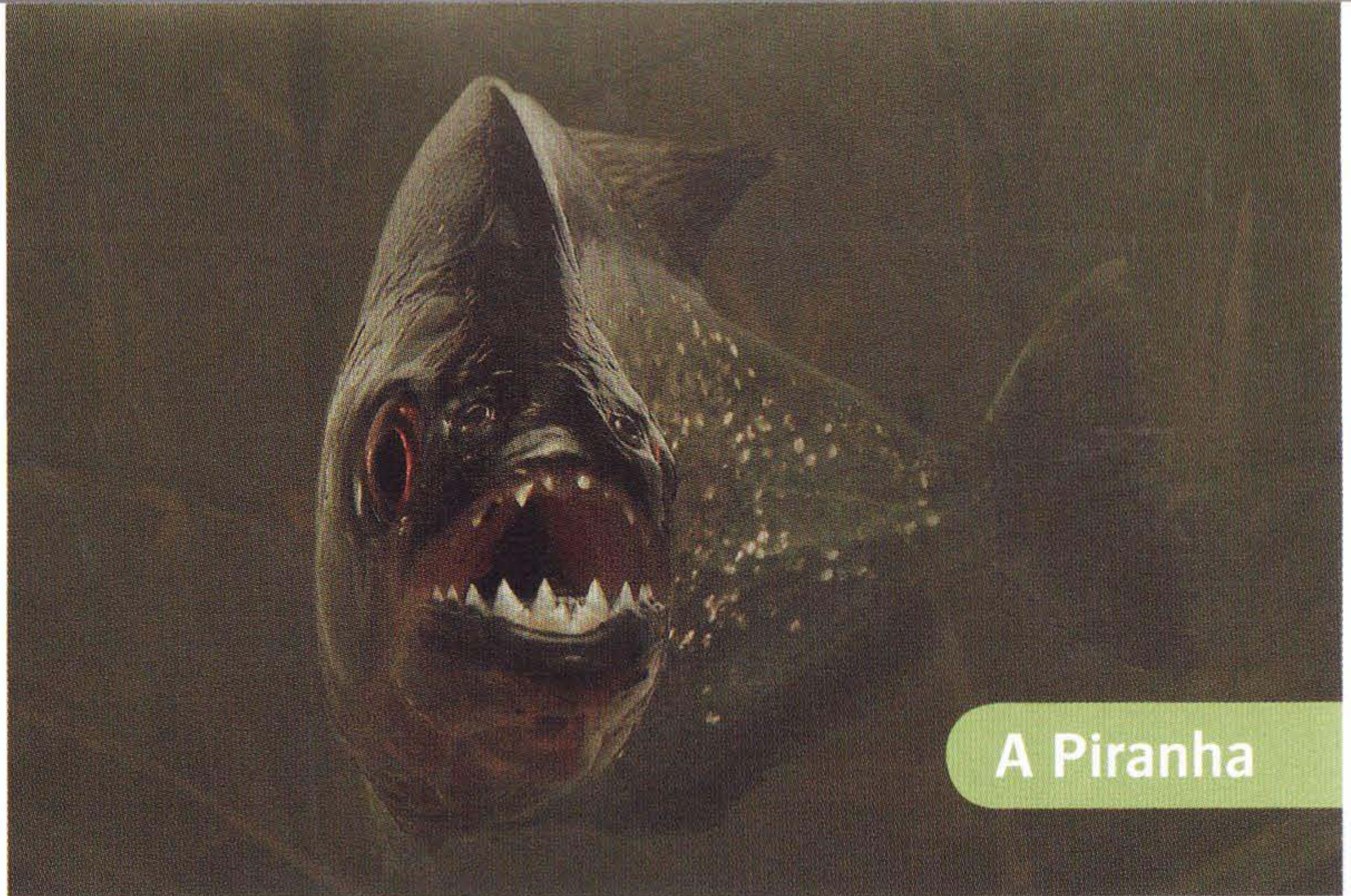


### The Amazon River

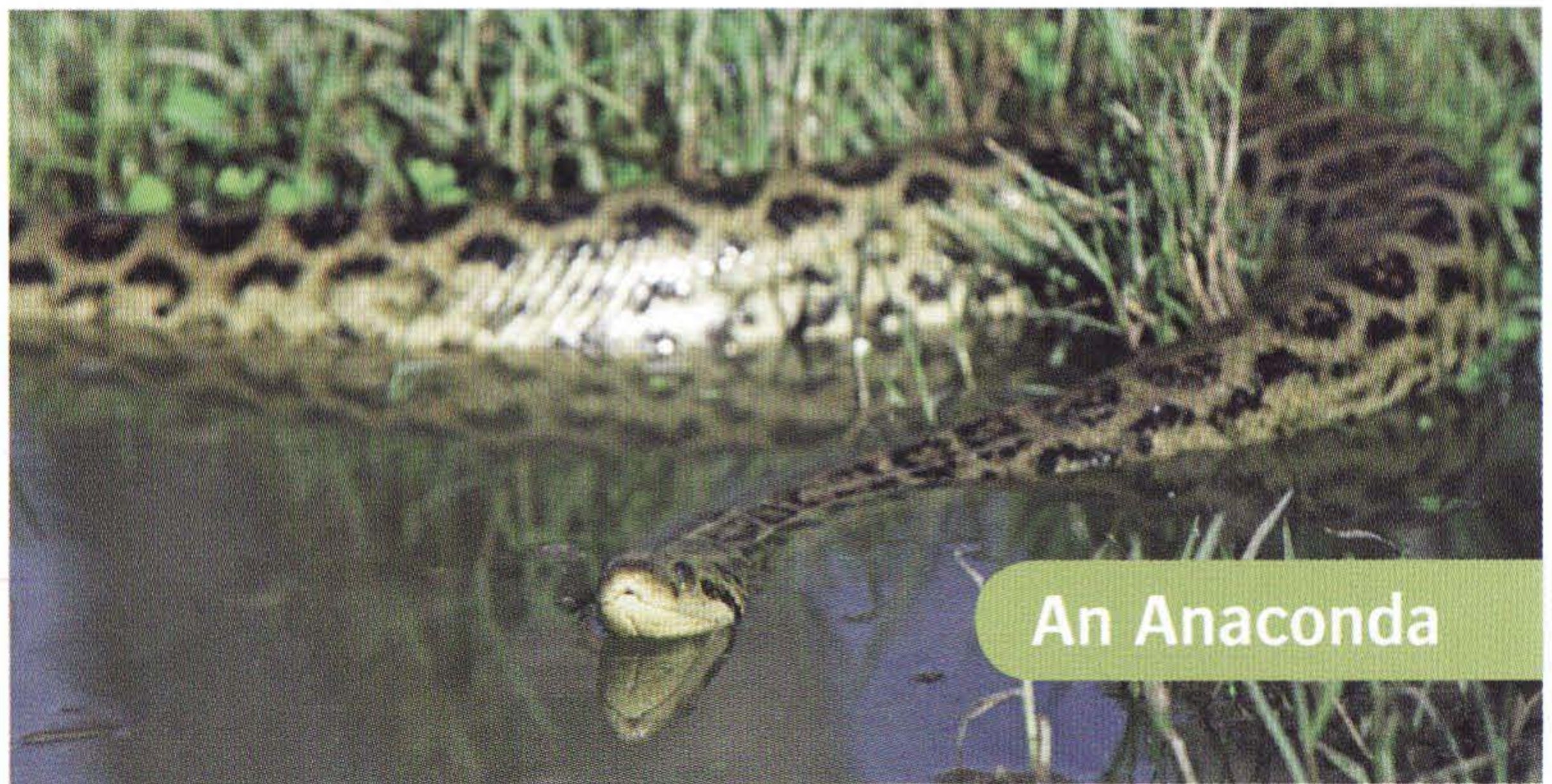
Tropical rainforests have some of the biggest rivers on Earth, like the Mekong River in Asia and the Congo River in Africa. The biggest rainforest river is the Amazon River in South America. The Amazon is about 6,400 kilometers long.

Many smaller rivers go into big rainforest rivers. More than 1,000 smaller rivers go into the Amazon.





A Piranha



An Anaconda

Many animals live in rainforest rivers. The Amazon has more than 3,000 types of fish. One example is the piranha. It has big teeth. Anacondas also live here. The anaconda is one of the biggest snakes in the world.

People need rainforest rivers, too. Rivers give people fish to eat, and water. Rivers are also important for travel. Many people travel by boat because there aren't many roads.



Go to pages 30–31 for activities.



# 5

## Mammals

A mammal is an animal that breathes air and drinks milk from its mother. Lots of mammals live in rainforests. Chimpanzees are mammals, and they live in African rainforests. They eat leaves, fruit, insects, and other small animals.

Sloths live in the rainforests in Central America and South America. They are the slowest mammals in the world. They eat leaves and fruit, and they sleep for about 18 hours every day!

### A Sloth



Sloths are so slow that algae grow on their fur!

fur

algae



Tigers live in rainforests in Asia. They are the biggest cats in the world. They hunt and eat other big mammals, fish, and birds. They like water and they can swim well.

Platypuses live in rainforests in Australia. They hunt underwater and they eat insects, shellfish, and worms. Male platypuses have poisonous stingers on their feet.

A photograph of a platypus swimming in water. The platypus is dark brown with a flat, duck-like bill and small eyes. It is shown from a side profile, moving through the water.

A Platypus

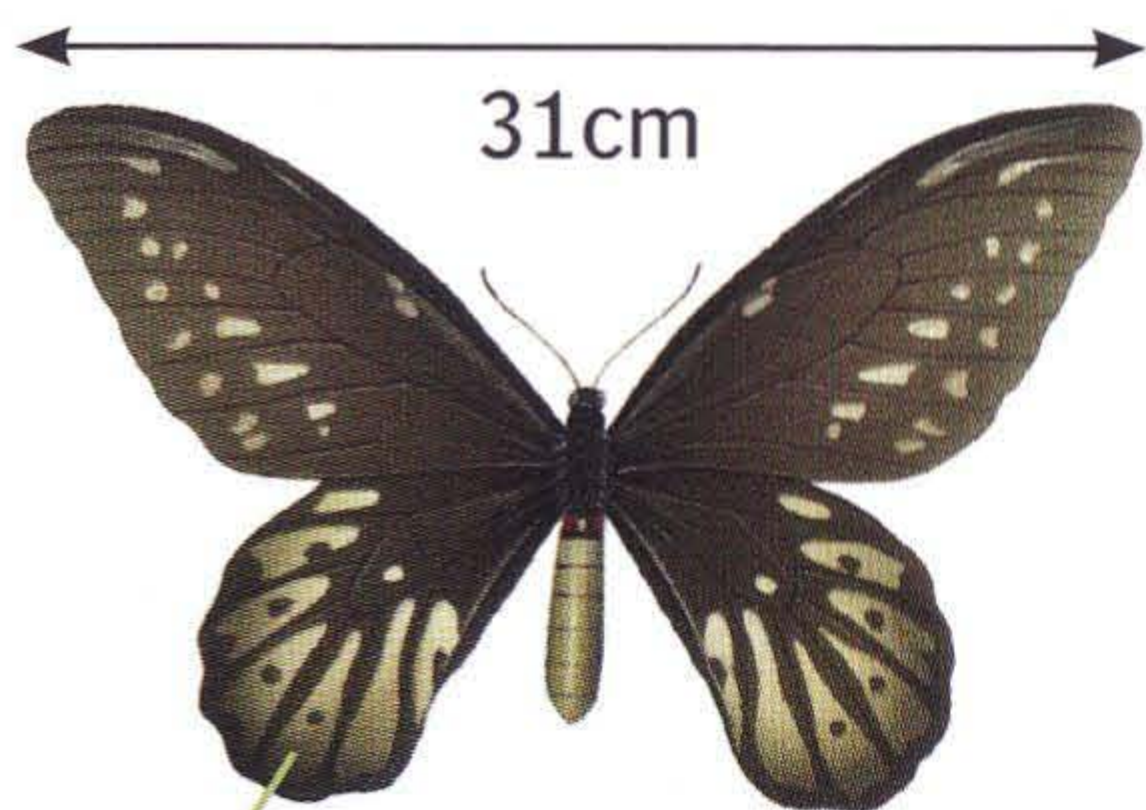
A close-up photograph of a platypus's stinger, which is a long, thick, and slightly curved tail. It is shown against a dark background.

stinger



## 6

## Minibeasts



wing

Most of the minibeasts in rainforests are insects. The biggest butterfly in the world lives in the rainforest in Papua New

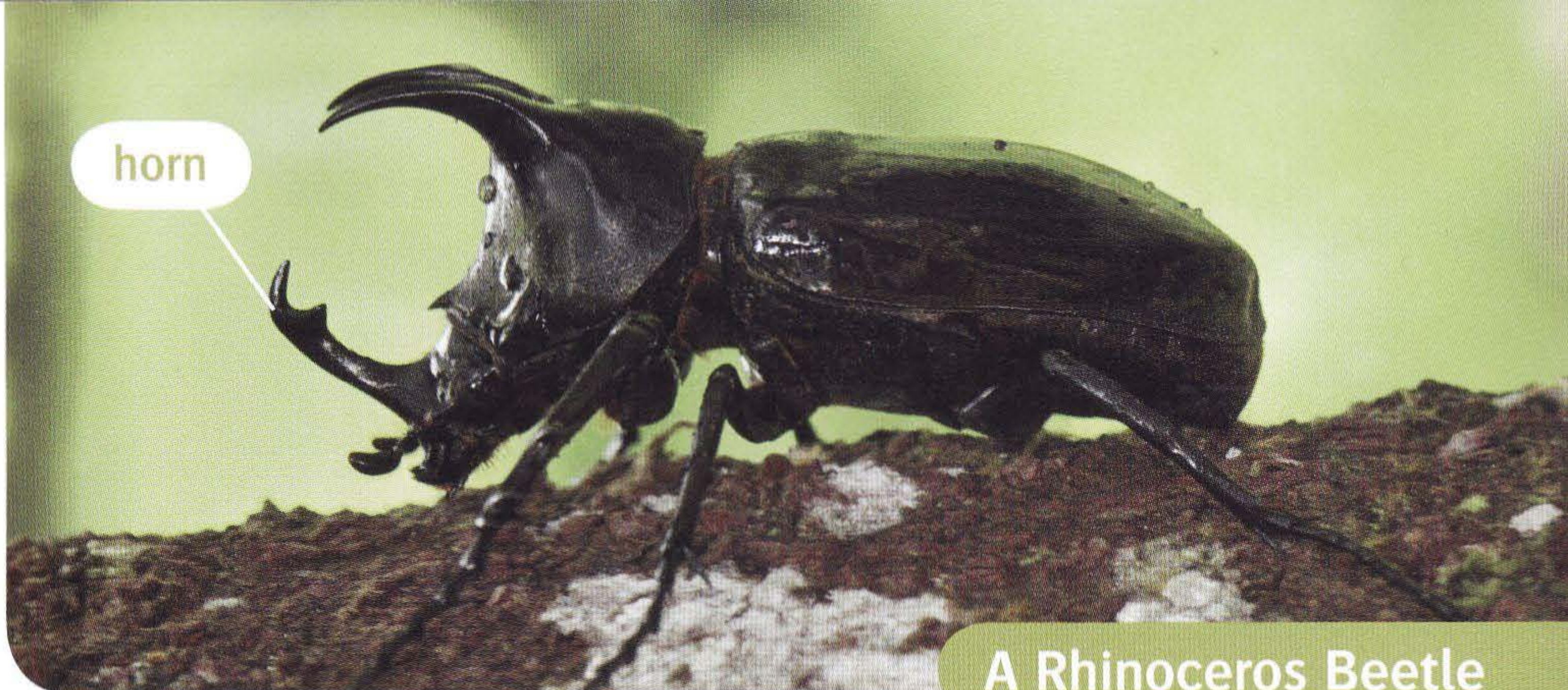
Guinea near Australia. It's the female Queen Alexandra's Birdwing. Its wings can be 31 centimeters across.

Mantises live in rainforests all around the world. They use camouflage to hide from other animals. They can look like leaves, sticks, or flowers!

A Flower Mantis







A Rhinoceros Beetle

Many types of beetle live in the rainforest. Rhinoceros beetles have a horn on their head like rhinos. They are big and strong.

Spiders live in rainforests, too. Tarantulas live in South American rainforests. They are probably the biggest spiders in the world. Their legs can be 30 centimeters long.



Tarantulas have eight eyes, but they can't see very well.



Go to pages 34–35 for activities.





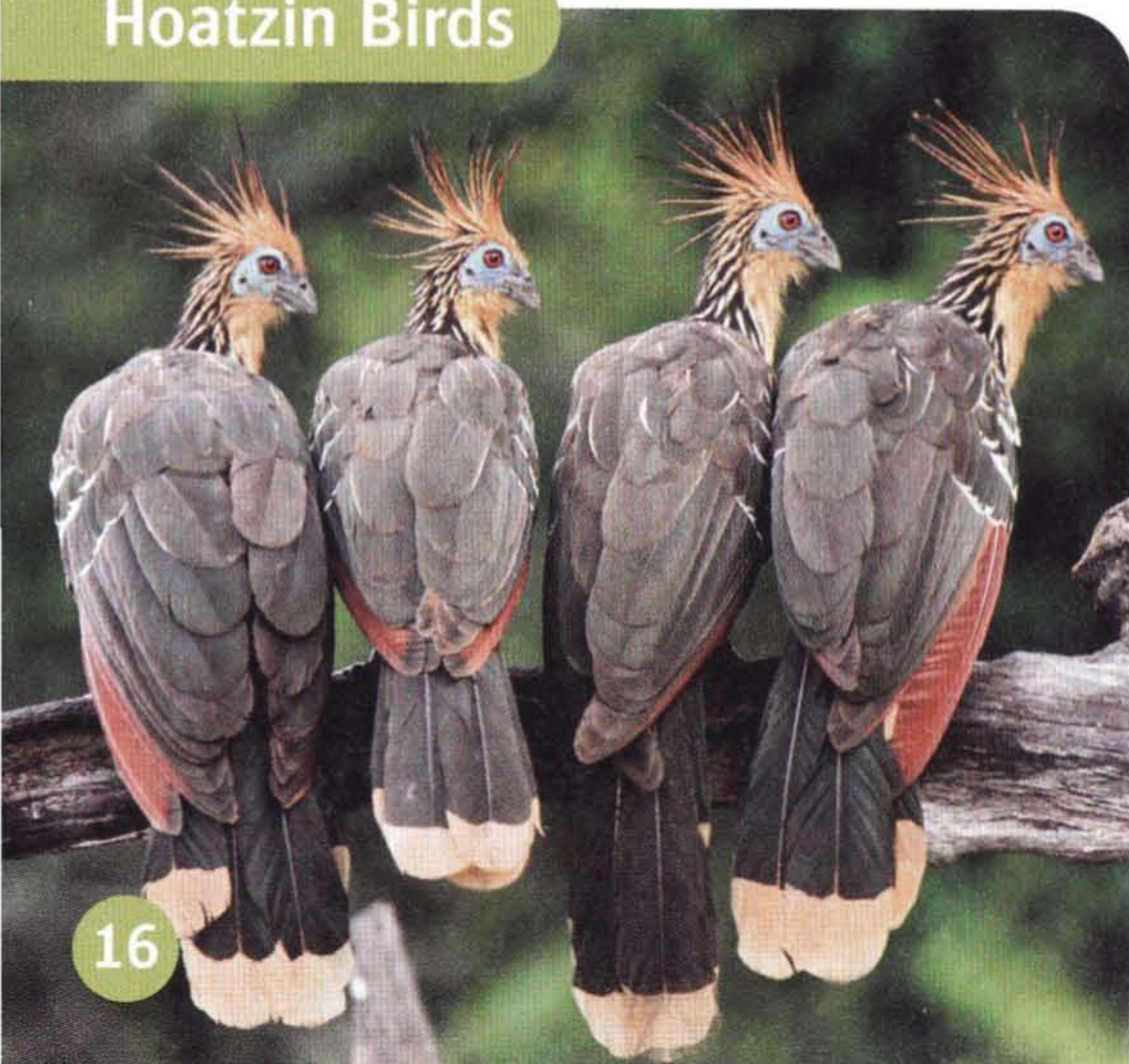
# Birds



An Australian King Parrot

Some rainforest birds are very colorful. The Australian king parrot has a red head, green wings, and a blue tail. It has a yellow circle around each eye.

## Hoatzin Birds



Hoatzin birds are black, brown, gray, orange, red and blue. They live in the Amazon rainforest. Their babies have two claws on each wing. They use these claws to climb before they can fly.



Some rainforest birds are big. The female northern cassowary from Papua New Guinea can be up to 2 meters tall. It can weigh 58 kilograms. It has very big feet and it can't fly.



A Northern Cassowary

Other rainforest birds are very small. The smallest birds are hummingbirds. They drink nectar from flowers. They can flap their wings very fast – from 15 to 80 times every second.

A Hummingbird



Go to pages 36–37 for activities.



# 8

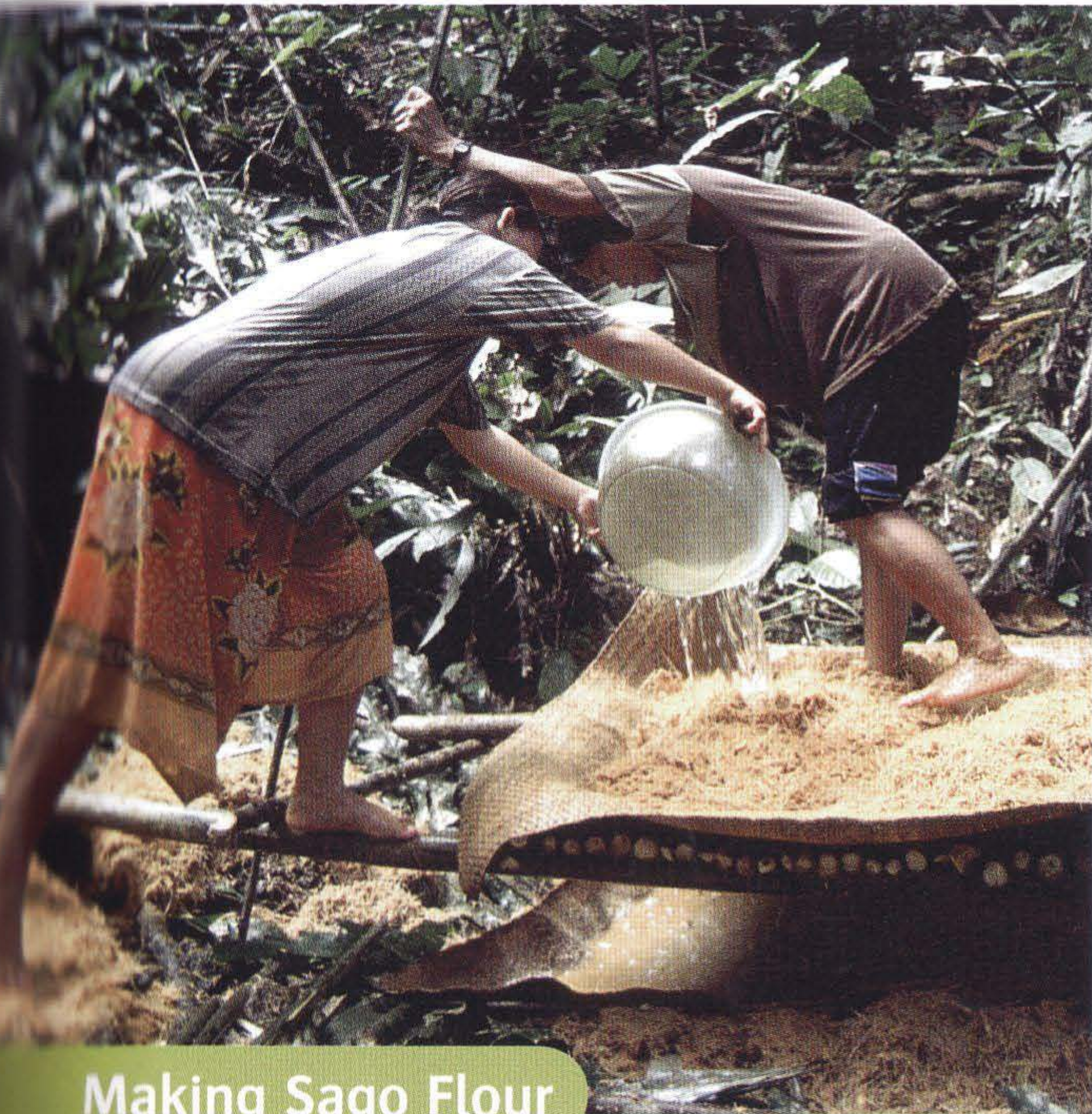
## People

Many different groups of people live in tropical rainforests. The Penan people live in Sarawak. Sarawak is in Borneo in Asia. The Penan people travel through the rainforest in families of up to 30 people. Each family has one hut to live in and one smaller hut to sleep in. When they travel, they build new huts.

Building a Hut







Making Sago Flour



A Blowpipe

The Penan people make flour from sago palm trees. They hunt and eat deer, smaller mammals, and birds. Sometimes they use blowpipes to hunt.

The rainforest is the home of the Penan people, but some other people cut down the trees. Then the rainforest is different. Sometimes the Penan people can't find the plants that they use for medicines. Sometimes they can't find clean water or food.



Go to pages 38–39 for activities.





# Rainforest Problems

Tropical rainforests are getting smaller. People cut down the trees to get wood. Then they sell the wood. Lots of furniture, doors, and floors are made from the wood. Some farmers also cut down rainforest trees. They do this to keep cows on the land, or to grow coffee or sugar. Then they can sell the cows, coffee, and sugar.

Cows on Rainforest Land







Trees are good for the soil. When there are no trees, the soil is not very good. Then new trees grow more slowly, and some trees die. With no trees, rainforest people and animals have no homes. They can't find food, and they can't live in the rainforest.



People cut down about 20,000 square kilometers of rainforest every year. This is called deforestation.





How can we save the tropical rainforests? We can buy coffee, sugar, and bananas from farmers who do not cut down rainforest trees. We can buy furniture that is not made from rainforest wood. We can buy recycled paper. This saves trees because paper is also made from wood.

## A Sumatran Tiger



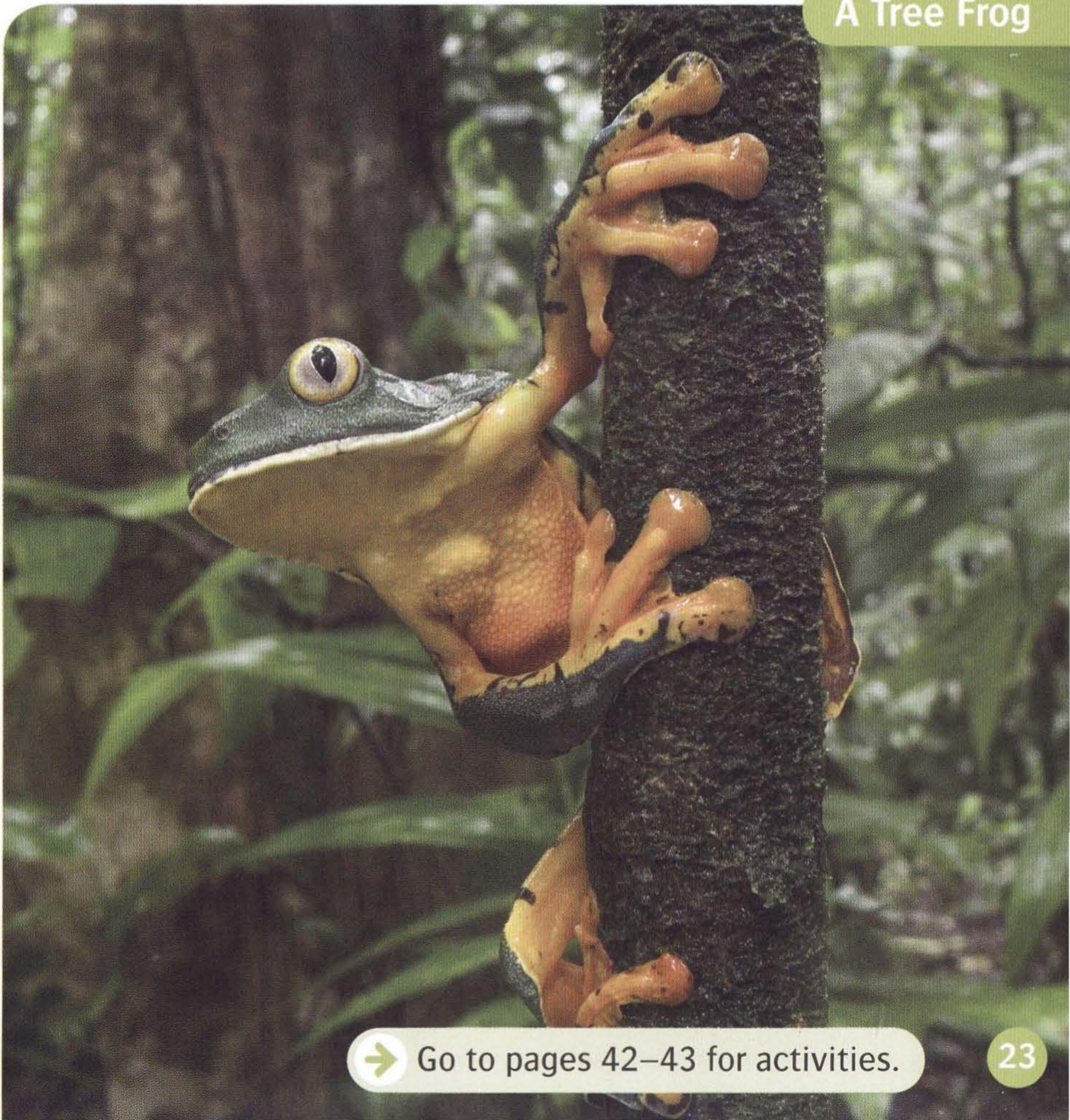
Sumatran tigers live on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia in Asia. There are only about 250 tigers there. If we save rainforests, we can save tigers.



We can teach other people about rainforests and the people that live there. We can teach them about the amazing rainforest plants and rivers. We can teach them about the special mammals, birds, and minibeasts that live there, too.

Rainforests are beautiful and important places. Save the rainforests!

A Tree Frog



Go to pages 42–43 for activities.



# 1

# Tropical Rainforests



Read pages 4–5.

## 1 Write the numbers.



- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australasia       | <input type="checkbox"/> Africa     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South America     | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North America     | <input type="checkbox"/> Europe     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central America   | <input type="checkbox"/> Equator    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Tropics       | <input type="checkbox"/> India      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amazon rainforest | <input type="checkbox"/> Australia  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Congo rainforest  | <input type="checkbox"/> Madagascar |

## 2 Write ★ on your country. Circle the rainforest nearest to where you live.



### 3 Write the numbers.

50   400   6   750   1,500   150

- 1 Tropical rainforests cover only about 6 % of Earth.
- 2 About \_\_\_\_\_ % of all the types of animal and plant live there.
- 3 About 10 square kilometers of rainforest can have \_\_\_\_\_ types of tree, \_\_\_\_\_ types of other plant, \_\_\_\_\_ types of bird, and \_\_\_\_\_ types of butterfly.

### 4 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where are all the tropical rainforests?  
All the tropical rainforests are near the equator.
- 2 Where are most of the rainforests?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Which is the biggest rainforest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Which is the second biggest rainforest?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Where are the smaller rainforests?  
\_\_\_\_\_



# 2

## Rainforest Layers

← Read pages 6–7.

forest floor    canopy  
emergent layer    understory

### 1 Write the words.



- 1 emergent layer
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_









### 2 Write the correct rainforest layer.

- 1 It's dark and hot in the understory.
- 2 It's very windy in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 There's light and lots of food in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 The bottom layer is the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 The roots of the trees are on the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The tops of the tallest trees are in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 The tops of the small trees are in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 The big branches of the tall trees are in the \_\_\_\_\_.



### 3 Complete the chart.

monkeys eagles anteaters bats  
tree frogs jaguars insects toucans

Emergent Layer	Canopy	Understory	Forest Floor
 eagles			
			

### 4 Look at the chart. Write sentences.

1 Eagles and \_\_\_\_\_ live in the  
emergent layer.

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_



# 3

## Plants

← Read pages 8–9.

### 1 Write the words.

tanlp



1 plant

lave<sup>e</sup>s



2 \_\_\_\_\_

chen<sup>s</sup>rab



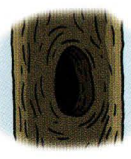
3 \_\_\_\_\_

tens



4 \_\_\_\_\_

ree<sup>t</sup> le<sup>h</sup>o



5 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Write *true* or *false*.

- 1 Plants are homes for rainforest animals. true
- 2 Some small animals live in tree holes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Some birds make nests in tree holes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Orang-utans sleep in tree holes. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Orang-utans make nests from bananas. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Orang-utans sleep on the forest floor. \_\_\_\_\_



### 3 What can we get or make from rainforest plants?

- 1 banana tree → b a n a n a s
- 2 balsa tree → w \_ \_ \_
- 3 rubber tree → l \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4 nut tree → n \_ \_ \_
- 5 pineapple leaves → c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and b \_ \_ \_

### 4 Complete the sentences.

grow get can use sleep gives are make

- 1 Many plants are homes for rainforest animals.
- 2 Bananas, pineapples, and nuts \_\_\_\_\_ in the rainforest.
- 3 We \_\_\_\_\_ make things from rainforest plants.
- 4 We \_\_\_\_\_ some plants to make medicines.
- 5 The balsa tree \_\_\_\_\_ us wood.
- 6 We can \_\_\_\_\_ rubber with latex.
- 7 Animals and people \_\_\_\_\_ food from rainforest plants.
- 8 Some frogs \_\_\_\_\_ between the leaves of plants.



# 4

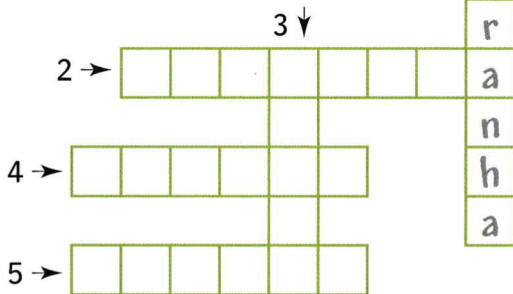
## Rivers



Read pages 10–11.

### 1 Complete the puzzle.

- 1 a fish with big teeth
- 2 one of the biggest snakes in the world
- 3 a big river in Africa
- 4 a big river in Asia
- 5 the biggest rainforest river



### 2 Write ✓ or X.

- 1 The Mekong River is
  - ☒ bigger than the Amazon.
  - ☒ in Asia.
- 2 The Amazon isn't
  - ☐ a small river.
  - ☐ the biggest rainforest river.
- 3 The Amazon has more than 3,000
  - ☐ types of fish.
  - ☐ smaller rivers.
- 4 An anaconda is
  - ☐ a snake.
  - ☐ a fish.
- 5 Rivers give people
  - ☐ food and light.
  - ☐ food and water.
- 6 Many rainforest people travel by
  - ☐ train.
  - ☐ boat.



### 3 Write the words in the correct order.

1 live / rivers. / animals / Many / rainforest / in

Many animals live in rainforest rivers.

2 water. / give / Rivers / people

3 Rivers / people / eat. / give / to / fish

4 important / for / travel. / Rivers / are

5 travel / on / boat / People / rivers. / by

6 Amazon. / roads / aren't / There / many / the / in

### 4 Write about the River Amazon.

The River Amazon is in \_\_\_\_\_

It's the \_\_\_\_\_

It's about \_\_\_\_\_

It has \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ live in the River Amazon.

People need the river because \_\_\_\_\_



# 5

# Mammals

← Read pages 12–13.

**1 Find and write the words.**



1 fish



2 \_\_\_\_\_



3 \_\_\_\_\_



4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_

c	h	i	m	p	a	n	z	e	e
r	i	n	s	e	c	t	s	w	f
i	r	m	e	t	r	u	d	o	i
m	s	l	a	t	i	g	e	r	s
p	l	a	t	y	p	u	s	m	h
o	o	s	e	y	r	m	t	r	e
t	t	c	a	n	e	o	e	i	f
s	h	e	l	l	f	i	s	h	e



6 \_\_\_\_\_



7 \_\_\_\_\_



8 \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Circle the correct words.**

- 1 The slowest mammals are platypuses / sloths.
- 2 The biggest cats in the world are tigers / jaguars.
- 3 Male platypuses / tigers have poisonous stingers.
- 4 Chimpanzees / Tigers live in African rainforests and eat leaves, fruit, and insects.







# 6

# Minibeasts

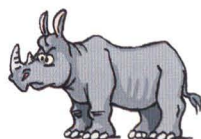
← Read pages 14–15.

1 Use the code to write the animals. Then write the numbers.

a	b	d	e	f	h	i	l	m	n	o	p	r	s	t	u	y
↓	⊙	⊗	▲	★	↗	■	◆	⊕	⊖	⊗	●	○	⊙	↑	□	≡

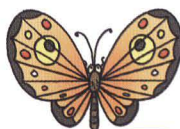
1

⊙	□	↑	↑	▲	○	★	◆	≡
b	u	t	t	e	r	f	l	y




2

⊕	↓	⊖	↑	■	⊙




3

⊙	▲	▲	↑	◆	▲




4

⊙	●	■	⊗	▲	○




5

○	↗	■	⊖	⊗





## 2 Match.

The female Queen  
Alexandra's Birdwing

Rhinoceros beetles

Tarantulas

Mantises

are probably the  
biggest spiders.

can look like flowers.

is the biggest butterfly.

have horns like rhinos.

## 3 Correct the sentences.

- 1 The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing lives in India.

The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing lives in Papua  
New Guinea.

- 2 Most of the minibeasts in rainforests are spiders.

- 3 Mantises can't use camouflage.

- 4 Rhinoceros beetles have a stinger on their head.

- 5 Tarantulas live in African rainforests.

- 6 Tarantulas have six eyes.



# 7

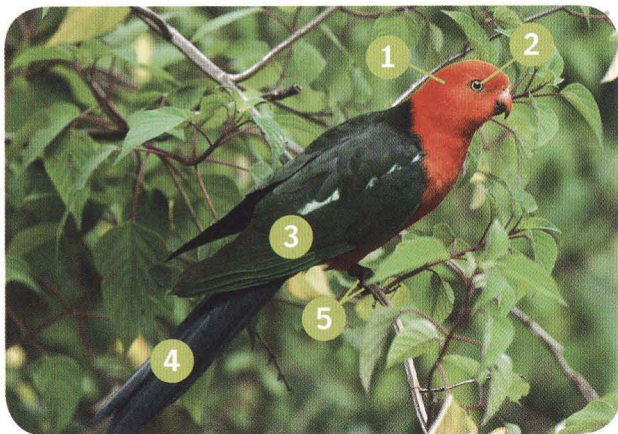
## Birds

← Read pages 16–17.

### 1 Write the words.

tail wing feet eye head

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_



### 2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 The Australian king parrot is **colorful** / **black and white**.
- 2 Hoatzin **babies** / **adults** climb before they can fly.
- 3 Hoatzin babies have claws on their **head** / **wings**.
- 4 The female northern cassowary can weigh **58** / **85** kilograms.
- 5 The northern cassowary **can** / **can't** fly.
- 6 Hummingbirds flap their wings very **fast** / **slowly**.



### 3 Complete the chart.

It has very big feet    It flaps its wings very fast.

~~It has a yellow circle around each eye.~~

It can be 2 meters tall.    Its babies can climb.

It's very small.    It lives in the Amazon.

It's red, blue, green, and yellow.

Australian King Parrot	<u>It has a yellow circle around each eye.</u> _____ _____
Hoatzin	_____ _____ _____
Female Northern Cassowary	_____ _____ _____
Hummingbird	_____ _____ _____

### 4 Write about two rainforest birds.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# 8

# People

← Read pages 18–19.

**1** Complete the puzzle. Write the secret word.



1



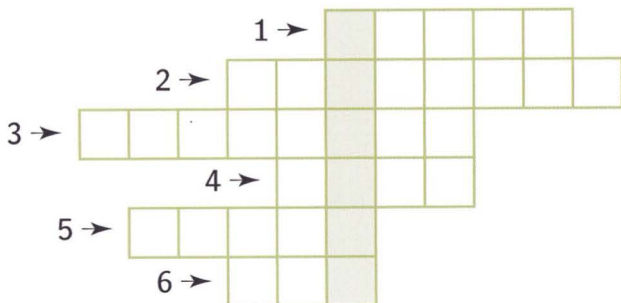
2



3



4



5



6

The secret word is:

**2** Complete the sentences with words from activity 1.

- 1 The Penan people hunt \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 They have a \_\_\_\_\_ to sleep in.
- 3 They make and eat sago \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 They make flour from the sago \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 They sometimes use a \_\_\_\_\_ to hunt.



### 3 Answer the questions.

1 Where do the Penan people live?

---

2 How many huts does each family have?

---

3 What do they eat?

---

4 Why can't the Penan people find the trees that they need?

---

### 4 Draw and write about the Penan people.



The Penan people are rainforest people from

---

---

---

---

---



# 9

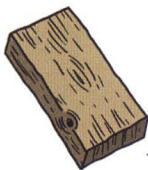
## Rainforest Problems



Read pages 20–21.

### 1 Find and write the words.

owood floor run furniture ed door ing cow or coffee so sugar



1 wood



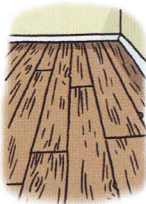
2 \_\_\_\_\_



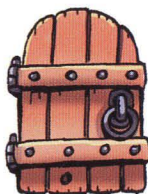
3 \_\_\_\_\_



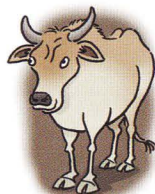
4 \_\_\_\_\_



5 \_\_\_\_\_



6 \_\_\_\_\_



7 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2 Number the sentences in order.

- ☐ They sell the wood.
- ☐ Other people make furniture, doors, and floors.
- ☐ People cut down rainforest trees.
- ☐ They get wood from the trees.



### 3 Match.

- 1 Some farmers cut down
- 2 They keep
- 3 Some farmers grow
- 4 Then they sell

cows on the land.  
rainforest trees.  
the cows, coffee,  
and sugar.  
coffee or sugar.

### 4 Complete the diagram.

slowly soil homes die live food

When people cut down trees ...

1 The soil is not very good.

2 New trees grow more \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Some trees \_\_\_\_\_.

4 Rainforest people and animals have no \_\_\_\_\_.

5 Rainforest people and animals can't find \_\_\_\_\_ to eat.

6 Rainforest people and animals can't \_\_\_\_\_ in the rainforest.



← Read pages 22–23.

**1 Write the words in order. Then write ✓ or X.**

1 trees. / down / Cut / rainforest

Cut down rainforest trees.

X

2 wood. / furniture / from / rainforest / Buy / made

☐

3 rainforests. / people / Teach / about

☐

4 paper. / recycled / Buy

☐

5 down / farmers / who / coffee / from / Buy /  
trees. / cut / rainforest

☐

**2 Complete the words.**

We can teach people about rainforest ...

1 p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

4 m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

2 p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

5 b \_ \_ \_ \_

3 r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

6 m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_



### 3 Complete the sentences.

Indonesia   tigers   rainforests   Sumatra

- 1 Sumatran tigers live on the island of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Sumatra is in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 There are only about 250 Sumatran \_\_\_\_\_ on Sumatra.
- 4 If we save \_\_\_\_\_, we can save tigers.

### 4 Which tropical rainforest is it?

- 1 It's the biggest tropical rainforest. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 It's the second biggest tropical rainforest. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 It has the biggest rainforest river. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The Mekong River is here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Platypuses live here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Tigers live here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Chimpanzees live here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Tarantulas live here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Hoatzin birds live here. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 The Penan people live here. \_\_\_\_\_





# A Tropical Rainforest

- 1** Draw a map of the tropical rainforest nearest where you live.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin green border, intended for drawing a map of a tropical rainforest.

- 2** Draw the rainforest rivers on your map. Write the names of the rivers.
- 3** Draw and write about a mammal, a bird, and a minibeast from this rainforest.

A small, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin green border, intended for drawing a mammal from the rainforest.

---

---

---

A small, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin green border, intended for drawing a bird from the rainforest.

---

---

---

A small, empty rectangular box with rounded corners and a thin green border, intended for drawing a minibeast from the rainforest.

---

---

---



# Save the Rainforests!

## 1 How can we save the rainforests? Write notes.

When people cut down trees ...



\_\_\_\_\_



New trees \_\_\_\_\_



Some trees \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

How can we save the rainforests?

We can teach \_\_\_\_\_

We can save \_\_\_\_\_

We can buy \_\_\_\_\_

We can \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Make a poster about how to save the rainforests.

## 3 Display your poster.



# Picture Dictionary



breathe



buy



chimpanzee



claws



climb



clothes



coffee



dark



deer



die



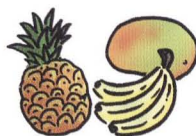
female



food



forest



fruit



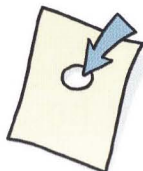
furniture



grow



hide



hole



hunt



insects





island



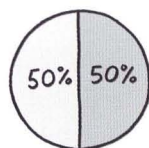
land



male



medicines



percent (%)



pineapple



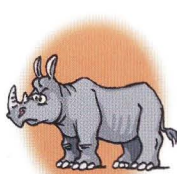
plants



poisonous



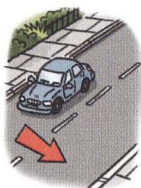
recycle



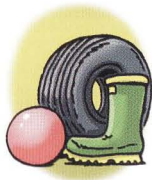
rhino



river



road



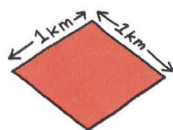
rubber



shellfish



soil



square  
kilometer



stick



sugar



wood



worm





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Series Editor: Hazel Geatches • CLIL Adviser: John Clegg

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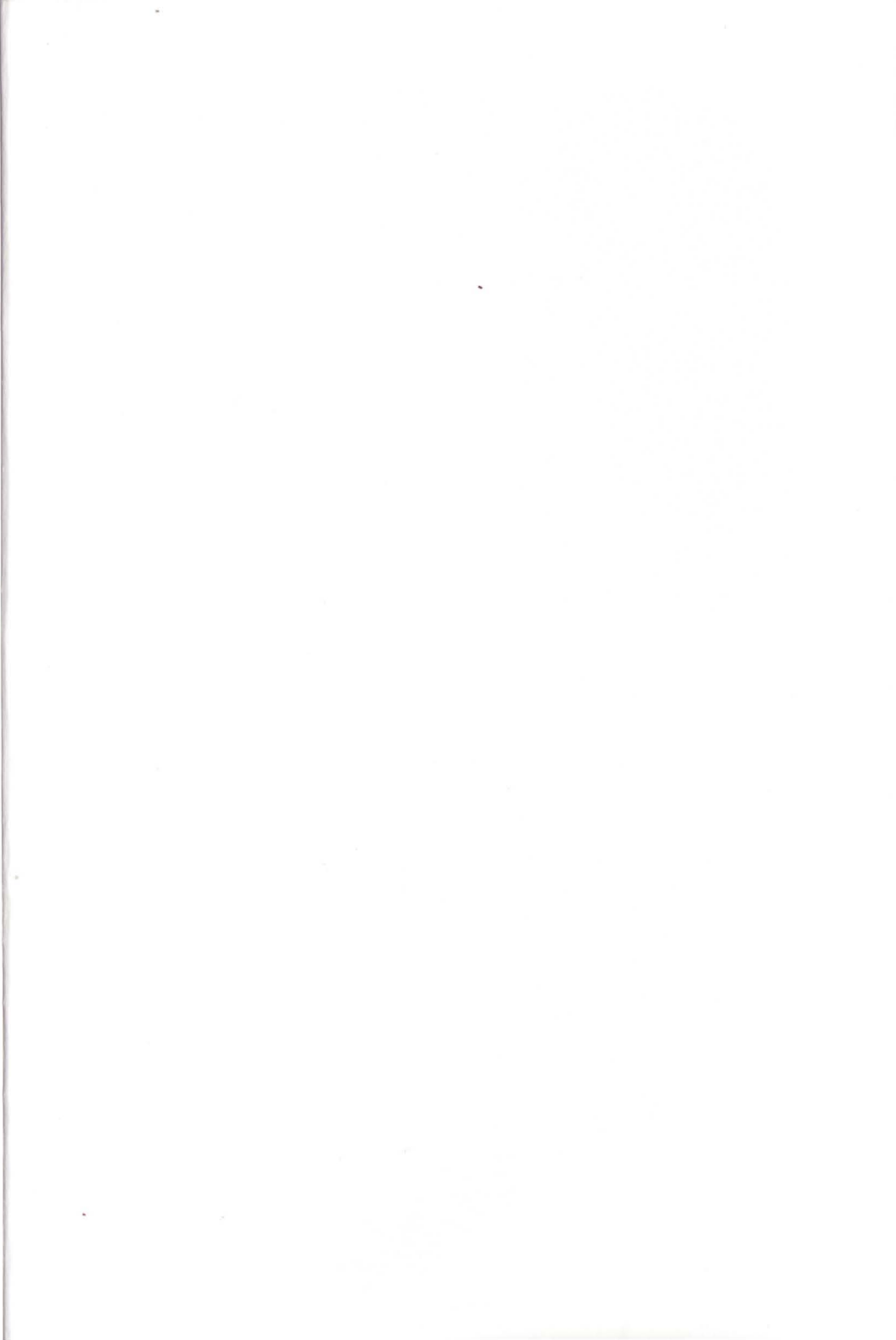
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600 headwords



**Level 5**  
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**Level 4**  
750 headwords



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Cover photograph: Corbis (Macaw flying over rainforest/Jim Zuckerman)

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